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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Victoria SANDRU (Romania)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions:

"(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;

"(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;

"(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

"(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights."

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on agenda item 110 will be issued in six parts under the symbol A/51/619 and Add.1-5.

(a) Letter dated 19 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/81);

(b) Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Trujillo Act and Protocol Amending the Cartagena Agreement (A/51/87);

(c) Letter dated 27 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of a joint communiqué issued at Pueblo, Mexico, on 14 March 1996 by the Regional Conference on Migration (A/51/90);

(d) Letter dated 9 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/114);

(e) Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of the group of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996 (A/51/208-S/1996/543);

(f) Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the results of the 95th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Istanbul from 12 to 20 April 1996 (A/51/210);

(g) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Declaration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries issued on 24 September 1996 on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement (A/51/462-S/1996/831);

(h) Letter dated 5 November 1996 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Tashkent Declaration of 21 October 1996 (A/51/664-S/1996/930);

(i) Letter dated 25 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/9).

3. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 110 (a):

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/51/40);[1]

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/51/40).

(b) Report of the Committee against Torture;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/51/415);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/51/422);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/51/425);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/51/426);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/51/465);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the seventh meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies (A/51/482).

4. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 110 (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the recommendations made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia on matters within his mandate (A/51/453);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the comments and clarifications submitted on 17 September 1996 by the Government of Cambodia on the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (A/51/453/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/51/480);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/51/536);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/51/539);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights (A/51/552);

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[2] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/51/44).

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the rule of law (A/51/555);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights (A/51/558);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (A/51/561);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (A/51/641);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a letter addressed to him by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, attaching the final report on the United Nations Year for Tolerance, containing a Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and a Follow-Up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1995) (A/51/201);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on educational activities under the project "Towards a culture of peace" (A/51/395);

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/51/457);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (A/51/506);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on religious intolerance (A/51/542);

(p) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights concerning a visit to Greece (A/51/542/Add.1);

(q) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights relating to a visit to the Sudan (A/51/542/Add.2);

(r) Note by the Secretary-General on the composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights (A/51/650);

(s) Letter dated 22 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/153);

(t) Letter dated 18 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/170);

(u) Note verbale dated 6 August 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/290);

(v) Note verbale dated 17 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/17);

(w) Letter dated 29 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/6);

(x) Letter dated 22 November 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/18).

5. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 110 (c):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo (A/51/556);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia (A/51/557);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/51/660);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in Burundi (A/51/459);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Cuba (A/51/460);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/51/466);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (A/51/478);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/51/479);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/51/481);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (A/51/483);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons: profiles in displacement, Tajikistan (A/51/483/Add.1 and 2);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/51/490);

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/51/496);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the field mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the framework of the Iraq mandate, 14-24 October 1996 (A/51/496/Add.1);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa (A/51/507);

(p) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report on the situation of human rights in Nigeria of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the independence of judges and lawyers (A/51/538);

(q) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on human rights and the forthcoming elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/51/651-S/1996/902);

(r) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the periodic report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/51/652-S/1996/903);

(s) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (A/51/657);

(t) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the periodic report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/51/663-S/1996/927);

(u) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the special report on minorities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/51/665-S/1996/931);

(v) Letter dated 13 March from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/80-S/1996/194);

(w) Letter dated 28 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/189);

(x) Letter dated 3 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/203-E/1996/86);

(y) Letter dated 8 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/204);

(z) Letter dated 5 August 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/271);

(aa) Note verbale dated 10 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/347);

(bb) Letter dated 21 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/532);

(cc) Letter dated 23 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/3);

(dd) Letter dated 12 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/8);

(ee) Letter dated 23 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/10);

(ff) Letter dated 27 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/11);

(gg) Letter dated 27 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/12)

(hh) Letter dated 6 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/13);

(ii) Letter dated 18 November 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.3/51/15);

(jj) Letter dated 18 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/51/16).

6. The Committee also had before it, under sub-item 110 (d) the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/51/36).[1]

7. The Committee also had before it, under sub-item 110 (e) the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/51/36).[1]

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/51/36).